

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07429 020757Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-05 CU-04 /081 W  
-----044133 020810Z /12  
P R 020727Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6173  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7429

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS  
SUBJECT: COURT SCHEDULES SENTENCING FOR HANGUK THEOLOGY STUDENTS

REF: SEOUL 5539

1. THE SONGBUK BRANCH DISTRICT COURT IS SCHEDULED TO PASS JUDGMENT ON SEPTEMBER 10 ON THE HANGUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY STUDENTS WHOSE TRIAL BEGAN JULY 1. THE STUDENTS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ATTEMPTED DEMONSTRATION AT THE SEMINARY AND WERE CHARGED WITH VIOLATING EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER 9 AND ARTICLE 4 OF THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS ACT WHICH FORBIDS ENCOURAGING, PRAISING OR SIDING WITH COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS ARE WATCHING THIS TRIAL WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION BECAUSE THE DEFENDANTS ARE SEMINARIANS AND BECAUSE ONE OF THEM--KIM HA-POM--IS THE SON OF KNCC SEC GEN KIM KWAN-SUK.

3. SINCE THE STUDENTS WERE CAUGHT IN FLAGRANTE THERE IS NO (RPT NO) EXPECTATION THAT THE COURT WILL CLEAR THEM. SPECULATION CENTERS AROUND WHETHER THE COURT WILL CONVICT THEM UNDER THE ANTI-COMMUNIST LAWS AS WELL AS EM-9, AND HOW SEVERE IT WILL BE IN METING OUT PUNISHMENT. THE  
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PROSECUTION HAS ASKED FOR SENTENCES RANGING FROM FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009